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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Recent Developments at the Matzen and
Zistersdorf Oil Fields

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Matzen

1. On or about 11 June 1950 a new well was brought into production at Matzen. This well is erupting and now produces about 180 tons of crude oil per day.
2. Despite a critical shortage of oil well casing, the Soviets have been pushing 12 new drillings in the Matzen fields. (1) Apparently in their eagerness to strike oil, Soviet engineers sank two wells, one of them to a depth of 1,000 meters, without casings. As a result, the Soviets lost all equipment installed at both of these wells when they collapsed early in June 1950.
3. According to Engr. Muellner, mechanic in charge of the Matzen pipe section, the SMV has just received sufficient quantities of two, three and four-inch piping, 2 5/8 inch tubing and 6 5/8, 8 9/16, and 9 5/8 inch casing from Rumania to equip four wells in this field. It is believed that this pipe was originally manufactured in Germany and sent to Rumania during the war. (2)

ITAG

4. Drilling has reached a depth of 1,200 meters at Spannberg No. 1, a well which lies just west of Matzen near Hohenruppersdorf. SMV experts believe this well will be brought in at 1,700 to 1,800 meters. If Spannberg No. 1 proves to be productive, it will be incorporated within the ITAG fields and the SMV will initiate additional exploratory drillings in this area. It is also reported that drilling is now under way at a site near Poysdorf.
5. ITAG officials recently received an order directing them to send two derricks to Matzen. In order to comply with this directive ITAG will have to remove derricks from two active wells and install Austrian-made telescope derricks.

Muehlberg

6. The SMV is also drilling a well between Katzelsdorf and Bernardsthal about 150 meters from the Austro-Czechoslovak border. SMV oil field workers employed in this area recently learned that Soviet engineers are now working on a new

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well just across the border about 500 meters from the frontier. This well allegedly is the property of the Czech oil monopoly.

Storage Facilities

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7. [redacted]
the Soviets have built a large concrete basin, which has a capacity for storing 300 tons of crude oil, at Neusiedl. This basin is equipped with a pumping system and a pipe line connecting it with Matzen. It is rumored that the SMV plans to construct similar basins which will facilitate the storage of crude oil throughout the Zistersdorf area.
8. The Soviets have started to tear up an Austrian football field which was built about a year ago over an old gravel pit in Ladendorf bei Mistelbach. Since Soviet troops are now guarding this area, it is believed that the SMV plans to dam up the pit and use it, as the Germans did during the war, for an open air storage tank. It is said that the pit has a capacity of 100,000 tons of oil.

Crude Oil Shipments to Czechoslovakia

9. The Soviets have abandoned the Bernhardtthal railhead as a loading point and are now shipping crude oil directly from Neusiedl to Czechoslovakia. These shipments are known as "UT" shipments. At the present time, the SMV is dispatching two weekly shipments, each containing 400 to 440 tons of oil, to Czechoslovakia.

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[redacted] Comment: According to a conservative estimate, the SMV has acquired 30,000 to 40,000 meters of seamless piping during the past two years. Most of the German-made pipe which has been delivered to Matzen during recent weeks was obviously manufactured during the war and apparently has been in storage for some time. Much of the pipe is corroded and the bakelite pipe caps are damaged.

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